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**DISTRICT HEIGHTS MAN SENTENCED TO 130 MONTHS
FOR ARMED BANK ROBBERY**

Greenbelt, Maryland- United States Attorney Thomas M. DiBiagio announced that today U.S. District Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. sentenced Shawndell Dwayne Barnes, age 24, of District Heights, Maryland and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, to 130 months in prison followed by 5 years of supervised release arising from Barnes' November 7, 2003 conviction by a federal jury for conspiracy to commit armed bank robbery, armed bank robbery and use of a firearm during a crime of violence. Judge Williams also ordered that Barnes make restitution of \$15,560 to the Bank of America.

The conviction relates to the December 13, 2001 robbery of a Bank of America branch at the Coral Hills Shopping Center, 4821 Marlboro Pike, Capitol Heights, Maryland where \$15,690 was stolen. The firearm conviction alone carried a minimum sentence of 7 years in prison in addition to the sentence imposed for the underlying bank robbery offense.

During the trial the government presented evidence showing that Barnes, along with his friends from the Alpine Street neighborhood of District Heights, co-defendants Willie Lawson and David Obrian Smith, entered the Bank of America. Smith brandished a firearm, Lawson stole

\$15,690 and the trio fled to an apartment on Pomeroy Road, Washington, DC to split the proceeds. Willie Lawson, age 27, was convicted in a trial in April and sentenced to 57 years on July 7, 2003. Greggs Smith, age 33, was convicted in a trial in July 2003 for a related bank robbery and sentenced to 130 months in September 2003. Lawson's brother, David Obrian Smith, age 22, pleaded guilty on March 28, 2003 and was sentenced to serve 150 months in December 11, 2003.

Barnes had moved to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina after his indictment and was at large for over 7 months, prior to his arrest in South Carolina in May 2003.

The case is a result of a five month investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's field offices in Calverton, Maryland and Washington, DC. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney James C. Howard.